

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein which region around 460 bases 5' of the transcription start of the Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor gene is examined to detect the presence of a genetic polymorphism from Cytosine to Thymine.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the presence of a genetic polymorphism is determined by amplification of at least a fragment of the DNA by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of analysing the amplification product by restriction digestion and size analysis.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the disease or disorder is ischaemic heart disease.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the disease or disorder is Nephrotic Syndrome.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the disease or disorder is an inflammatory joint disorder.

16. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the disease or disorder is cancer.

18. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the disease or disorder is diabetes, or complications thereof, or proteinuria.